

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing the changing of channels between a communications network and at least one network equipment (~~MS-i~~), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein after setting up a connection for sending ~~and/or~~ or receiving data on a first channel (~~C1~~) between said network and said network equipment (~~MS-i~~), ~~said network equipment (MS-i) is sent~~, the method comprising sending a message, from said network controller to said network equipment, on said first channel (C1) instructing [[it]] said network equipment to continue said connection on a second channel (C2) and to maintain said first channel (C1) until [[it]] said network receives data and/or or acknowledgments of data from said network equipment (MS-i) on said second channel (C2), whereupon the resources associated with said first channel (C1) are released.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein, in the case of sending data to the equipment (~~MS-i~~), the sending of the data to said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said first channel (~~C1~~) and said second channel (~~C2~~) continues until data ~~and/or~~ or acknowledgments of data are received from said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said second channel (~~C2~~).

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3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said message is repeated on said first channel (C1) a chosen number of times in
accordance with a chosen time scheme.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the number of repetitions is chosen as a function of a required success rate and/or a
measured error rate.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said time scheme is a periodic scheme.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the message repetition period is chosen to prevent correlation between error rates
associated with two consecutive messages.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein a time is determined that enables ~~channel change messages~~ said message to reach said
network equipment ~~(MS-i) ahead of time~~ on said first channel prior to data received by said
network equipment on said second channel by an amount at least equal to the time necessary for
the network equipment ~~(MS-i)~~ to change from said first channel to said second channel, and the

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sending of data on said first channel (~~C1~~) and said second channel (~~C2~~) is ~~deferred~~ delayed by an a time amount that is a function of said time.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said time is also a function of the data bit rates and/or data sending speeds of said first channel (~~C1~~) and said second channel (~~C2~~).

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the message is repeated said chosen number of times until acknowledgments of data are received from said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said second channel (~~C2~~).

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the message is repeated said chosen number of time periods ~~whilst observing~~ while said network controller monitors said network to detect any change of behavior of the network equipment (~~MS-i~~) to which said message is sent.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the detected change of behavior of the network equipment (~~MS-i~~) consists in receiving data from said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said second channel (~~C2~~).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein a detected change of behavior of the network equipment (~~MS-i~~) consists in detecting
variation in a parameter chosen in a group comprising at least a change of mode of operation
parameter, a frequency, a position, and reception of acknowledgments.

13. (Currently Amended) A system (~~D~~) for managing ~~the~~ changing of channels between
a network controller (~~BSCn~~) and at least one network equipment (~~MS-i~~) in a communications
network, ~~which system is characterized in that it includes~~ the system comprising management
means (~~M~~) adapted, in the event of setting up a connection for sending ~~and/or or~~ receiving data
on a first channel (~~C1~~) between said network controller (~~BSCn~~) and said network equipment
(~~MS-i~~), to request said network controller (~~BSCn~~): i) to send said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) a
message on said first channel (~~C1~~) instructing ~~[[it]]~~ said network equipment to continue said
connection on a second channel (~~C2~~) and to maintain said first channel (~~C1~~) until ~~[[it]]~~ said
network controller receives data ~~and/or or~~ acknowledgments of data from said network
equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said second channel (~~C2~~), and ii) to release the resources associated with
said first channel (~~C1~~) on receiving said data ~~and/or or~~ said acknowledgments of data.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein, in the case of sending data to the network equipment (~~MS-i~~), said management means
(~~M~~) are adapted to request said network controller (~~BSCn~~) to continue to send data to said
network equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said first channel (~~C1~~) and said second channel (~~C2~~) until ~~[[it]]~~

said network controller receives data ~~and/or~~ or acknowledgments of data from said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said second channel (~~C2~~).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said management means (~~M~~) are adapted to repeat said message on said first channel
(~~C1~~) a chosen number of times in accordance with a chosen time scheme.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said management means (~~M~~) are adapted to choose the number of repetitions as a
function of a required success rate ~~and/or~~ or a measured error rate.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said time scheme is a periodic scheme.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said management means (~~M~~) are adapted to determine the message repetition period to
prevent correlation between error rates associated with two consecutive messages.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said management means (~~M~~) are adapted to determine a time enabling ~~change of~~
~~channel messages~~ said message to reach said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) ~~ahead of time~~ on said

first channel prior to data received by said network equipment on said second channel by an amount at least equal to the time necessary for the network equipment (~~MS-i~~) to change from said first channel to said second channel and then to instruct said network controller (~~BSCn~~) to ~~defer~~ delay the sending of data on said first channel (~~C1~~) and said second channel (~~C2~~) ~~by an~~ by a time amount that is a function of said time.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said management means (~~M~~) are adapted to determine said time also as a function of data bit rates ~~and/or~~ or data sending speeds of said first channel (~~C1~~) and said second channel (~~C2~~).

21. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said management means (~~M~~) are adapted to repeat the message said chosen number of times until they receive acknowledgments of data from said network equipment (~~MS-i~~) on said second channel (~~C2~~).

22. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said management means (~~M~~) are adapted to repeat the message said chosen number of times and substantially simultaneously to observe said network to detect any change of behavior of the network equipment (~~MS-i~~) to which said message is sent.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 22, characterized in that
wherein said management means (M) detect a change of behavior of the network equipment
(MS-i) in the event of receiving data from said network equipment (MS-i) on said second
channel (C2).

24. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The system according to claim 22, characterized in that
wherein said management means (M) detect a change of behavior of the network equipment
(MS-i) in the event of variation of a parameter chosen in a group comprising at least a change of
mode of operation parameter, a frequency, a position, and reception of acknowledgments.

25. (Currently Amended) A network controller ~~(BSCn)~~ of an access network ~~(RAN)~~ of a
communications network, ~~characterized in that it includes a system (D) according to claim 13~~
said network controller comprising management means for managing changing of channels
between a network controller and at least one network equipment in the communications
network, said management means adapted, in the event of setting up a connection for sending or
receiving data on a first channel between said network controller and said network equipment, to
send said network equipment a message on said first channel instructing said network equipment
to continue said connection on a second channel and to maintain said first channel until said
network controller receives data or acknowledgments of data from said network equipment on
said second channel, and to release the resources associated with said first channel on receiving
said data or said acknowledgments of data.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~ A network equipment of an access network (RAN) of a communications network including at least one network controller (BSCn), ~~characterized in that it includes a system (D) according to claim 13~~ managing changing of channels between the network controller and the network equipment in the communications network, the network equipment comprising means adapted to receive from said network controller in the event of setting up a connection for sending or receiving data on a first channel between said network controller and said network equipment, a message on a first channel instructing said network equipment to continue said connection on a second channel and to maintain said first channel until said network controller receives data or acknowledgments of data from said network equipment on said second channel, and to release the resources associated with said first channel on receiving said data or said acknowledgments of data.

27. (Currently Amended) A communications network including an access network (RAN) including at least one network controller (BSCn), ~~characterized in that it includes said communications network comprising at least one system (D) according to claim 13~~ for managing the changing of channels between a network controller and at least one network equipment in a communications network, the system comprising management means adapted, in the event of setting up a connection for sending or receiving data on a first channel between said network controller and said network equipment, to request said network controller: i) to send said network equipment a message on said first channel instructing said network equipment to

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continue said connection on a second channel and to maintain said first channel until said network controller receives data or acknowledgments of data from said network equipment on said second channel, and ii) to release the resources associated with said first channel on receiving said data or said acknowledgments of data.

Claims 28 and 29 (canceled).